

REMARKS

The above-noted amendments are respectfully submitted in response to the official action dated August 13, 2008. Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled. Claim 3 has been amended to initially include the limitations of claim 4, and claim 6 has been added to correspond to the limitations of prior claim 5, including those of claim 3 from which it depended. These amendments are thus clearly supported in the specification, as well as in the claims as originally filed, and no new matter has been included therein.

Indeed, since the Examiner has indicated that claims 4 and 5 were directed to allowable subject matter if written in independent form, and since this is precisely what applicants have done, it is clear that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 3 have been rejected as being unpatentable over either Hawen *et al.*, Deuchars, or Lutz under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or (e). The Examiner contends that each of these patents shows an inner region having bars of greater width than bars of an outer region and a varying-distance-type transition region. This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments and arguments and for the reasons set forth hereinafter.

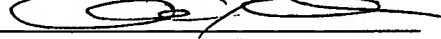
It is initially noted that this rejection is moot in view of the amendment of claim 3 to include the limitations of claim 4 and the addition of claim 6, including the limitations of prior claim 5. Therefore, although applicants assert that the cited references do not anticipate the limitations of prior claim 3, once again since this claim is no longer present in this case, the rejection is moot, and this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, which action is therefore respectfully solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections to the allowance of this application.

Finally, if there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: September 4, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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